

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, CI

SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES ALLEGED US
ROLE IN ALLENDE OVERTHROW

REF: STOCKHOLM 4999

1. SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON'S SPEECH ON
SEPTEMBER 11 WHICH IN PART CRITICIZED THE ALLEGED ROLE
OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND THE CIA IN THE OVERTHROW
OF THE ALLENDE REGIME (REFTEL, DEALT IN GENERAL WITH
THE CHILEAN SITUATION AND THE SWEDISH REACTION TO IT.
THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE PORTION OF ANDERSSON'S
REMARKS DIRECTLY DEALING WITH THE ALLEGED US
ROLE ARE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 3, REFTTEL.

2. MENTION OF THE US OCCUPIED ONE PARAGRAPH OF THE
5-PAGE STATEMENT. IN GENERAL, THE SPEECH, GIVEN
BEFORE MEMBERS OF THE SWEDEN-BASED "INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR CHILE," BLASTED THE PINOCHET REGIME,
LAMENTED THE RIGHT-WING OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE, AND
REAFFIRMED SWEDISH SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF CHILE.
ANDERSSON ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL
SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF REPRESSIVE FORCES, AND LISTED
THE STEPS SWEDEN IS TAKING TO AID "CHILEAN CAUSE."
ANDERSSON ALSO EXPOUNDED ON THE DANGERS TO SMALL
COUNTRIES POSED BY SUPER POWER POLITICS (A "CORNERSTONE"
OF SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY), AND POINTED OUT THAT GOS
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HAD STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE SOVIET INVASION OF

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT, ALLENDE REGIME HAD BEEN A FAVORITE WITH THE SWEDES, ESPECIALLY THE LEFT, AND GOS ABHORRENCE OF THE PINOCHET REGIME HAS BEEN EXPRESSED ALMOST SINCE THE DAY OF THE COUP. ANDERSSON'S REMARKS, MADE IN THE HEAT OF THE FINAL WEEK OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, ADDRESSED NOT ONLY HIS LEFT-WING AUDIENCE, BUT ALSO WIDESPREAD SWEDISH OPPOSITION TO THE COUP AND THE PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. CHILE IS PERHAPS SECOND ONLY TO SOUTH AFRICA IN THE AMOUNT OF POPULAR HOSTILITY IT GENERATES IN TODAY'S SWEDEN.

4. ALTHOUGH SOME PRESS REPORTS, NOTABLY THAT IN DAGENS NYHETER, PROCLAIMED ANDERSSON'S REMARKS "AN ESCALATION" FROM GOS PAST CRITICISM OF THE US ROLE IN CHILE, EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT THIS ASSESSMENT IS VALID. OTHER PAPERS ALMOST IGNORED STORY. GOS ATTITUDE TOWARD COUP IN GENERAL AND ALLEGED US ROLE IN IT HAS NEVER BEEN ANY SECRET. AFTER INITIAL AIRING, THIS MATTER HAS DROPPED FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

5. COMMENT. EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM HAD THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF ANDERSSON'S REMARKS AND CONCLUDED AS FOLLOWS: (A) ANDERSSON STATEMENT WAS AN ELECTION-WEEK GAMBIT WHICH DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN GOS POLICY OR ATTITUDE TOWARDS USG. (B) STATEMENT MADE LITTLE OR NO IMPRESSION UPON PUBLIC OPINION. (C) TRUE ATTITUDE OF GOS TOWARDS US IS CLEARLY SHOWN BY LAVISH WELCOME GIVEN CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER, FOR WHOM MINISTER OF JUSTICE GAVE IMPRESSIVE DINNER AT FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 14 WITH WARM TESTIMONIES TO US-SWEDISH FRIENDSHIP. (D) GOS DESIRES TO SHAKE OFF THE RECORD OF CONFRONTATION WITH USG FROM THE VIETNAM WAR AND WOULD SINCERELY REGRET BEING FORCED INTO A DIPLOMATIC DEBATE OVER CHILE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, COUNTRY TEAM CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL FOR USG TO STATE OFFICIAL PROTEST OVER WHAT WAS IN EFFECT MORE AN ELECTION STATEMENT THAN A GOVERNMENTAL ONE. IN FACT, CONSIDERING INTENSE PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF USG-GOS RELATIONS CAUSED BY CURRENT

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PRESS ARTICLES ON GOS PAYMENTS TO US AIR FORCE, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE AN UNFORTUNATE AND UNHELPFUL TIME TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL PROTEST.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS PROTEST NOT BE MADE AT THIS TIME. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES, EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANDERSSON STATEMENT INFORMALLY WITH MFA, NOT AS PROTEST BUT TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT.

7. IN VIEW OF THE TENSE SITUATION IN STOCKHOLM OVER THE
AIR FORCE PAYMENTS MATTER, IN WHICH WE AND THE GOS ARE
COOPERATING VERY CLOSELY, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING
CONSULTED IN ADVANCE IF DEPARTMENT CONTEMPLATES ANY
PROTEST IN WASHINGTON.
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